

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

► The following listing of claims replaces all prior listing of claims in the application:

1 **Claim 1 (original):** A folding knife, comprising:
2 a handle having a pivot shaft, the pivot shaft defining a rotational axis;
3 a blade having a tang at one end, the tang being rotatably mounted to the handle
4 and about the pivot shaft between a closed position and an open position, a pin
5 positioned on and extending from the tang of the blade, the pin being spaced apart
6 from the rotational axis;
7 a bias element having a fixed end and a spaced free end, said fixed end being
8 connected to said handle, a portion of the bias element proximate the free end thereof
9 being in continuous urging contact with the pin to assist in the movement of the blade
10 into its open position.

1 **Claim 2 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 1, wherein the pin extends
2 transversely from the tang of the blade.

1 **Claim 3 (original):** The folding knife of claim 1, wherein the pin is spaced from
2 the rotational axis such that the pin follows a predetermined path as the blade is rotated
3 relative to the handle.

1 **Claim 4 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 3, wherein the predetermined
2 path is arcuate.

1 **Claim 5 (previously amended):** The folding knife of claim 3, wherein the handle
2 has a front end, a back end, and defining a recessed blade cavity therein, and wherein at
3 least a portion of the predetermined path is defined therein intermediate the back end
4 of the handle and the rotational axis.

1 **Claim 6 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 6, wherein the bias element is
2 housed within said blade cavity such that the bias element is positioned substantially to
3 one side of a blade plane defined by said blade.

1 **Claim 7 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 6, wherein the bias element is
2 positioned substantially parallel to the blade plane.

1 **Claim 8 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 7, wherein the bias element is
2 constructed and arranged so that the bias element deflects in a bias element plane, and
3 wherein the bias element plane is parallel to the blade plane.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** The folding knife of claim 3, wherein the handle includes a
2 pair of spaced side members defining a blade cavity therebetween, each side member
3 having an interior surface.

1 **Claim 10 (currently amended):** The folding knife of claim 9, wherein the handle
2 further includes at least one liner member housed within the blade cavity, a first liner
3 member of the at least one liner member being connected to a first side member of the
4 pair of side members and defining a bias element cavity therebetween, the bias element
5 being housed within the bias element cavity, said first liner member defining a slot
6 constructed and arranged for passage of said pin, said slot being spaced with respect to
7 said rotational axis, wherein said pin defines a distal end, and wherein at least a portion
8 of said pin extends above said first liner member into said bias element cavity.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 13 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 12, wherein the slot has an
2 arcuate shape.

1 **Claim 14 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 12, wherein each side member
2 has a front end and a back end, wherein the first side member defines an elongated
3 recess within the interior surface of the first side member, the recess having a first end,
4 intermediate the front end and back end of the first side member, and a spaced second
5 end, adjacent the front end of the first side member, the first end of the recess defining
6 an elongated groove, wherein a portion of the recess forms a pair of opposing side walls
7 intermediate the first and second ends of the recess, wherein the pair of opposing side
8 walls taper away from each other as the respective side walls approach the second end
9 of the recess.

1 **Claim 15 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 14, wherein a portion of the
2 first liner member and the recess of the first side member define the bias element cavity.

1 **Claim 16 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 15, wherein a portion of the
2 fixed end of the bias element is mounted therein the elongated groove of the recess.

1 **Claim 17 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 16, wherein the bias element
2 has a bent portion intermediate the fixed end and the free end of the bias element.

1 **Claim 18 (original):** The folding knife of claim 1, wherein the bias element is a
2 flexible rod.

1 **Claim 19 (original):** The folding knife of claim 1, wherein the bias element exerts
2 an opening force when the blade is moved from its closed position to beyond a first
3 equilibrium position in a first rotational direction.

1 **Claim 20 (original):** The folding knife of claim 1, wherein the bias element exerts
2 a closing force when the blade is moved toward its closed position to beyond a second
3 equilibrium position in a second rotational direction.

1 **Claim 21 (original):** A folding knife, comprising:

2 a. a blade having a cutting edge extending along at least a portion of at least
3 one side thereof and a tang at one end;
4 b. an elongate handle having a front end, a back end, and defining a recessed
5 blade cavity therein;
6 c. a pivot shaft constructed and arranged for pivotally connecting said tang
7 to said handle proximate the front end of said handle so that the blade is rotatable about
8 a rotational axis;
9 d. a pin positioned on and extending from the tang of the blade, the pin
10 being spaced apart from the rotational axis;
11 e. a bias element housed within the blade cavity such that the bias element is
12 positioned substantially to one side of a blade plane defined by said blade, the bias
13 element having a free end, a portion of the bias element proximate the free end thereof
14 being in continuous urging contact with the pin to assist in the movement of the blade
15 into its opening position.

1 **Claim 22 (original):** The folding knife of claim 21, wherein the pin extends
2 transversely from the tang of the blade.

1 **Claim 23 (currently amended):** The folding knife of claim 21 [[22]], wherein the
2 pin is spaced from the rotational axis such that the pin follows a predetermined path as
3 the blade is rotated relative to the handle.

1 **Claim 24 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 23, wherein the
2 predetermined path is arcuate.

1 **Claim 25 (original):** The folding knife of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of
2 the predetermined path is defined therein intermediate the back end of the handle and
3 the rotational axis.

1 **Claim 26 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 21, wherein the bias element is
2 positioned substantially to one side of a blade plane defined by said blade.

1 **Claim 27 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 26, wherein the bias element is
2 positioned substantially parallel to the blade plane.

1 **Claim 28 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 27, wherein the bias element is
2 constructed and arranged so that the bias element deflects in a bias element plane, and
3 wherein the bias element plane is parallel to the blade plane.

1 **Claim 29 (original):** The folding knife of claim 23, wherein the handle comprises
2 a pair of spaced side members defining the blade cavity therebetween, each side
3 member having an interior surface.

1 **Claim 30 (currently amended):** The folding knife of claim 29, wherein the
2 handle further includes at least one liner member housed within the blade cavity, a first
3 liner member of the at least one liner member being connected to a first side member of
4 the pair of side members and defining a bias element cavity therebetween, the bias
5 element being housed within the bias element cavity, said first liner member defining a
6 slot constructed and arranged for passage of said pin, said slot being spaced with
7 respect to said rotational axis, wherein said pin defines a distal end, and wherein at
8 least a portion of said pin extends above said first liner member into said bias element
9 cavity.

1 **Claim 31 (currently amended and withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 30,
2 wherein the pivot shaft is ~~connect~~ connected to and extends between the first liner
3 member and a second side member of the pair of side members.

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 34 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 33, wherein the slot has an
2 arcuate shape.

1 **Claim 35 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 33, wherein each side member
2 has a front end and a back end, wherein the first side member defines an elongated
3 recess within the interior surface of the first side member, the recess having a first end,
4 intermediate the front end and back end of the first side member, and a spaced second
5 end, adjacent the front end of the first side member, the first end of the recess defining
6 an elongated groove, wherein a portion of the recess forms a pair of opposing side walls
7 intermediate the first and second ends of the recess, wherein the pair of opposing side
8 walls taper away from each other as the respective side walls approach the second end
9 of the recess.

1 **Claim 36 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 35, wherein a portion of the
2 first liner member and the recess of the first side member define the bias element cavity.

1 **Claim 37 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 36, wherein a portion of the
2 fixed end of the bias element is mounted therein the elongated groove of the recess.

1 **Claim 38 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 37, wherein the bias element
2 has a bent portion intermediate the fixed end and the free end of the bias element.

1 **Claim 39 (original):** The folding knife of claim 21, wherein the bias element
2 exerts an opening force when the blade is moved from its closed position to beyond a
3 first equilibrium position in a first rotational direction.

1 **Claim 40 (original):** The folding knife of claim 21, wherein the bias element
2 exerts a closing force when the blade is moved toward its closed position to beyond a
3 second equilibrium position in a second rotational direction.

1 **Claim 41 (original):** A folding knife, comprising:
2 a. a blade having a cutting edge extending along at least a portion of at least
3 one side thereof and a tang at one end;

4 b. an elongate handle having a front end, a back end, and defining a recessed
5 blade cavity therein;

6 c. a pivot shaft constructed and arranged for pivotally connecting said tang
7 to said handle proximate the front end of said handle so that the blade is rotatable about
8 a rotational axis;

9 d. a pin positioned on and extending from the tang of the blade, the pin
10 being spaced apart from the rotational axis;

11 e. a bias element housed within the blade cavity constructed and arranged
12 such that the bias element deflects in a bias element plane that is parallel to one side of a
13 blade plane defined by said blade, the bias element having a free end, a portion of the
14 bias element proximate the free end thereof being in continuous urging contact with the
15 pin to assist in the movement of the blade into its opening position.

1 **Claim 42 (withdrawn):** The folding knife of claim 41, wherein the pin extends
2 transversely from the tang of the blade.

1 **Claim 43 (original):** The folding knife of claim 41, wherein the pin is spaced
2 from the rotational axis such that the pin follows a predetermined arcuate path as the
3 blade is rotated relative to the handle.

1 **Claim 44 (currently amended):** The folding knife of claim 43, wherein the
2 handle comprises a pair of spaced side members defining the blade cavity
3 therebetween, each side member having an interior surface, the handle further
4 comprising at least one liner member housed within the blade cavity, a first liner
5 member of the at least one liner member being connected to a first side member of the
6 pair of side members and defining a bias element cavity therebetween, the bias element
7 being housed within the bias element cavity, said first liner member defining a slot
8 constructed and arranged for passage of said pin, said slot being spaced with respect to
9 said rotational axis, wherein said pin defines a distal end, and wherein at least a portion
10 of said pin extends above said first liner member into said bias element cavity.

1 **Claim 45 (currently amended):** The folding knife of claim 44, wherein the pivot
2 shaft is ~~connect~~ connected to and extends between the first liner member and a second
3 side member of the pair of side members.

Claim 46 (cancelled)

Claim 47 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 48 (original):** The folding knife of claim 47, wherein each side member
2 has a front end and a back end, wherein the first side member defines an elongated
3 recess within the interior surface of the first side member, the recess having a first end,
4 intermediate the front end and back end of the first side member, and a spaced second
5 end, adjacent the front end of the first side member, the first end of the recess defining
6 an elongated groove, wherein a portion of the recess forms a pair of opposing side walls
7 intermediate the first and second ends of the recess, wherein the pair of opposing side
8 walls taper away from each other as the respective side walls approach the second end
9 of the recess and wherein a portion of the first liner member and the recess of the first
10 side member define the bias element cavity.

1 **Claim 49 (original):** The folding knife of claim 48, wherein a portion of the fixed
2 end of the bias element is mounted therein the elongated groove of the recess.

1 **Claim 50 (original):** The folding knife of claim 41, wherein the bias element
2 exerts an opening force when the blade is moved from its closed position to beyond a
3 first equilibrium position in a first rotational direction.

1 **Claim 51 (original):** The folding knife of claim 41, wherein the bias element
2 exerts a closing force when the blade is moved toward its closed position to beyond a
3 second equilibrium position in a second rotational direction.